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LETTER DATED 7 JANUARY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that United States aircraft continued to violate Iraqi airspace for the purpose of surveillance and provocation during the period from 29 December 1992 to 5 January 1993, as follows.

29-30 December 1992

(a) Northern region: 31 sorties, flown at speeds of 600-900 km/h and at altitudes of 6,000-10,000 m, centred on Zakho, Dohuk, Mosul, Amadiyah, Dukan, Irbil and Rawanduz.

- At 0948, 1517 and 1620 hours on 30 December 1992, United States aircraft dropped heat flares north of Mosul and over Faruq airfield.

(b) Southern region: 78 sorties, flown by F-4, F-15 and F-16 aircraft at speeds of 600-900 km/h and at altitudes of 6,500-11,000 m, centred over Basra, Amarah, Qal'at Salih, Busayyah, Nasiriyah, Salman and southern Diwaniyah.

- At 0317 and 0459 hours on 30 December 1992, United States F-16 aircraft broke the sound barrier over Nasiriyah at an altitude of 8,000 m.

30-31 December 1992

(a) Northern region: 33 sorties, flown at speeds of 600-900 km/h and at altitudes of 6,000-8,000 m, centred on Mosul, Irbil, Dohuk, Zakho, Amadiyah and Ayn Zalah.

- At 2050 hours on 31 December 1992, United States aircraft broke the sound barrier over Firnas airfield in Mosul.

(b) Southern region: 62 sorties, flown by F-4, F-14, F-15 and F-16 aircraft at speeds of 600-900 km/h and at altitudes of 7,000-9,000 m, centred on Nasiriyah, Samawah, Salman, Shatrah, Khidr, Artawi and Busayyah.

31 December 1992-1 January 1993

(a) Northern region: 28 sorties, flown at speeds of 600-900 km/h and at altitudes of 6,000-9,000 m, centred on Mosul, Dohuk, Irbil, Zakho, Tall Afar, Dukan and Amadiyah.

(b) Southern region: 70 sorties, flown by TR-1, AWACS, F-14, F-15 and F-16 aircraft at speeds of 600-900 km/h and at altitudes of 6,500-20,000 m, centred on Nasiriyah, Busayyah, Ushbayjah, Salman, Nisf, Nukhayb, Jalibah and Janub al-Janub.

A United States TR-1 aircraft engaged in hostile reconnaissance in the southern region, entering at 1205 hours on 1 January 1993 and departing at 1340 hours. It flew at a speed of 600 km/h and at an altitude of 20,000 m.

1-2 January 1993

(a) Northern region: No air activity was recorded in the region on this day.

(b) Southern region: 77 sorties, flown by F-4, F-14, F-15 and F-16 aircraft at speeds of 600-900 km/h and at altitudes of 6,000-10,500 m, centred on Nasiriyah, Samawah, Jalibah, Qurnah, Busayyah, Salman and Artawi.

2-3 January 1993

(a) Northern region: 24 sorties, flown at speeds of 700-800 km/h and at altitudes of 6,500-8,000 m, centred on Mosul, Dohuk, Zakho and Tall Afar.

At 1555 hours on 2 January 1993, a hostile formation dropped heat flares on an area near Taklif in Ninawa governorate.

At 1550 hours on 2 January 1993, two United States aircraft dropped 15 heat flares on an area near Fayidah north of Mosul.

(b) Southern region: 41 sorties, flown by F-4, F-14, F-15 and F-16 aircraft at speeds of 600-900 km/h and at altitudes of 7,000 to 10,000 m, centred on Nasiriyah, Basra, Samawah, Jalibah, Khidr, Artawi and Busayyah.

- A United States TR-1 aircraft engaged in hostile reconnaissance in the southern region, entering the airspace at 1146 hours and departing at 1438 hours on 2 January 1993. It flew at an altitude of 20,000 m.

3-4 January 1993

(a) Northern region: 31 sorties, flown at speeds of 600-900 km/h and at altitudes of 6,000-9,000 m, centred on Mosul, Dohuk, Irbil, Tall Afar, Zakho and Amadiyah.

(b) Southern region: 62 sorties, flown at speeds of 600-900 km/h and at altitudes of 6,000-8,500 m, centred on Basra, Artawi, Jalibah, Salman, Nasiriyah and Samawah.

4-5 January 1993

(a) Northern region: 40 sorties, flown at speeds of 600-900 and at altitudes of 4,000-10,000 m, centred on Zakho, Dohuk, Irbil, Mosul, Tall Afar and Amadiyah.

(b) Northern region: 64 sorties, flown by F-4, F-14, F-15 and F-16 aircraft at speeds of 720-840 km/h and at altitudes of 5,000-8,000 m, centred on Samawah, Nasiriyah, Jalibah, Artawi, Qurnah, Khidr, Amarah, Busayyah, Shatrah and Salman.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative